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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) The airbag according to Claim 5, wherein said latching element is a traction cable that is attached at one end to said side wall.

Claim 4 (previously presented) An air bag for a vehicle occupant restraint system, said airbag comprising an airbag wall which has a front wall facing an occupant to be restrained, a back wall and a side wall, said front wall and said back wall being connected to each other by means of a detachable connection such that said front wall cannot separate from said back wall as long as said connection remains in tact, said connection between said front wall and said back wall being severed as a consequence of unfolding of said side wall when said airbag is inflated.

Claim 5 (previously presented) An airbag for a vehicle occupant restraint system, said airbag comprising an airbag wall which has a front wall facing an occupant to be restrained, a back wall and a side wall, said front wall and said back wall being connected to each other by means of a detachable connection, said connection between said front wall

and said back wall being severed by an unfolding of said side wall when said airbag is inflated, wherein said detachable connection is formed by at least one loop attached to said front wall and to said back wall, respectively, said loops being connected to each other by a latching element.

Claim 6 (previously presented) An air bag for a vehicle occupant restraint system, said air bag comprising an air bag wall which has a front wall portion facing an occupant to be restrained, a back wall portion and a side wall portion, said front wall portion and said back wall portion being connected to each other by means of a detachable connection, said detachable connection being functionally coupled to said side wall portion so that said connection between said front wall portion and said back wall portion is severed by an unfolding of said side wall portion when said air bag is inflated.

Claim 7 (previously presented) An air bag for a vehicle occupant restraint system, said air bag comprising an air bag wall which has a front wall portion facing an occupant to be restrained, a back wall portion and a side wall portion, said front wall portion and said back wall portion being connected to each other by means of a detachable connection, said detachable connection including an element coupled to said side wall portion for severing said detachable connection in response to an unfolding of said side wall portion when said air bag is inflated.